

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH—KIDS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Each year, April is designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month. In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention, and partners such as Prevent Child Abuse California and other agencies throughout the state, would like to invite students, teachers, and parents to be guests at the annual "Kids' Day at the Capitol" on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, on the west steps of the State Capitol. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The program will include guest speakers and various activities for children and youth. Last year Kids' Day at the Capitol was a huge success which attracted over 1,500 spectators, including children of all ages and over 75 resource booths. Some of the entertainment and fun activities last year included Chipper from California Highway Patrol, Slamson from the Sacramento Kings, and KidTribe Hula Hoop dancing for children. This year's Kids' Day will be full of fun activities for the children and will include a number of dignitaries, members of law enforcement agencies, firefighters, and community groups. Local public agencies and other state agencies will have booths and will provide information and free goodies for the children. There will also be nutritious snacks for the children.

Schools, Child care providers and parents can use this day as an opportunity to visit historic sites and museums in the Capitol District. To schedule a visit to the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts, please call (916) 653-3476. To schedule a tour of all other historic sites such as the California State Capitol Museum and Sutter's Fort, call 1-866-240-4655.

If you plan to attend, please confirm your participation by contacting Kim Kossick or Tracy Urban, with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention at (916) 651-6960. Kim or Tracy can also answer any questions you may have regarding the event.

For those of you who may not live in the Sacramento area or who cannot make it to this event, Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs), and volunteers concerned with preventing child abuse throughout California, plan a variety of educational and family activities as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. CAPCs throughout the state work hard to ensure a strong showing for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Many have come up with creative ways to spread the word about child abuse prevention and to provide resources to families.

For more information about Child Abuse Prevention Month, go to the [Child Abuse Prevention Initiative Web Site](#). To find the Child Abuse Prevention Council nearest to you, visit the Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance (CATTa) Centers' Searchable [Database of Child Abuse Prevention Organizations](#).

Community members have an important role in protecting children from abuse and neglect. Don't be afraid to get involved. Fear of involvement has resulted in family tragedies when the neighbors reported that they knew something was going on, but did

not want to get involved. Involvement does not mean physical intervention or snooping on your neighbor. It simply means not ignoring the obvious. Licensees and employees of licensed child care facilities are “mandated reporters” and are *required by law to report known or suspected child abuse*.

If child abuse is known or suspected, a report should be made so that a qualified professional can investigate the situation. Report suspected child abuse to the police or county sheriff, or [county children's protective services 24-hour emergency response phone](#). Licensees are also required to report such occurrences to the licensing agency by telephone or fax within the next work day during its normal business hours. A written report must be submitted within seven days following the occurrence containing the following information:

- Child's name, age, sex and date of admission
- Date and nature of event.
- Attending physician's name, findings, and treatment, if any.
- Disposition of the case.

For more information on child abuse, visit the Child Protective Services website at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG20.htm>.